

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6521

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0582

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, BU

SUBJ: CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 094676

1. CONSUL MET INFORMALLY WITH CHIEF MFA CONSULAR SECTION (KARASLAVOV) MAY 19 TO DISCUSS STATUS BULGARIAN COMMENTS ON OUTSTANDING ARTICLES. KARASLAVOV INDICATED WRITTEN COMMENTS WOULD BE PASSED EMBASSY ABOUT 1 JUNE. BY WAY OF PREVIEW, KARASLAVOV MAINTAINED ONLY "EDITORIAL" WORK LEFT ON ALL ARTICLES INCLUDING ARTICLE 38 BUT STATED GOB HAD SERIOUS RESERVATIONS REGARDING PROTOCOL ON DUAL NATIONALITY.

2. KARASLAVOV SAID GOB DOES NOT BELIEVE DUAL NATIONAL PROTOCOL SHOULD BE VIEWED AS PREREQUISITE TO CONSULAR AGREEMENT AND NOTED MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OPINION THAT SUCH PROTOCOL IN FACT REDUNDANT IN VIEW 1923 US- BULGARIAN TREATY ON NATURALIZATION. PER KARASLAVOV, JUSTICE MINISTRY'S RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT, IN LIEU OF DUAL NATIONALITY PROTOCOL PROPOSED BY US, 1923 TREATY BE "IMPROVED" AND NEW ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO ITS APPLICATION. CONSUL NOTED THAT NUMBER OF CASES COULD BE CITED OF BULGARIAN FAILURE IN RECENT YEARS TO ABIDE BY TREATY PROVISIONS.

3. IN UNUSUALLY INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE PREVAILING AT 19 MAY SESSION, CONSUL SUGGESTED THAT REALISTIC CONSIDER-
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ATION OF DUAL NATIONALITY QUESTION WOULD HAVE TO COVER
GOB ATTITUDE TOWARD THOSE NATURALIZED US CITIZENS WHO
MAY HAVE LEFT BULGARIA AFTER 9 SEPTEMBER 1944 WITHOUT
BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT PERMISSION. KARASLAVOV SAID THAT
BULGARIA WOULD ALWAYS VIEW SUCH INDIVIDUALS AS HAVING
COMMITTED A CRIME AGAINST THE STATE AND THAT GOB WOULD
" NEVER" VIEW SUCH CASES AS FALLING UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF EITHER THE 1923 TREATY OR AN EVENTUAL CONSULAR
CONVENTION OF PROTOCOL THERETO. WHEN CONSUL POINTED OUT
THAT KARASLAVOV'S STATEMENT, APPRECIATED FOR ITS FRANK-
NESS, WAS A MOST IMPORTANT ONE IN TERMS OF US CONCERN
FOR THE WELFARE OF ITS NATURALIZED CITIZENS, KARASLAVOV
SAID HIS STATEMENT WAS MERELY HIS PERSONAL OPINION.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES KARASLAVOV'S STATEMENT ON GOB
ATTITUDE TOWARD REFUGEES IS VALID INDICATOR THAT GOB
UNLIKELY AGREE TO CONSULAR CONVENTION CONTAINING QUARANTEES
OF PROTECTION FOR NATURALIZED CITIZENS IN THIS CATEGORY.
EQUALLY UNLIKELY THAT GOB WOULD OFFICIALLY ADMIT TO
SUCH ATTITUDE UNLESS REALLY FORCED INTO A CORNER.

5. BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHETHER WE
WISH PUT PRESSURE ON GOB RE TREATMENT NATURALIZED
AMERICANS WHO MAY BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, RISKING
HANG- UP OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS POINT, OR SETTLE FOR
AGREEMENT LIKE ROMANIAN OR HUNGARIAN WHERE NO LANGUAGE
INCLUDED ON DUAL NATIONALS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IF
CZECHOSLOVAKS ACCEPT DUAL NATIONAL PROTOCOL, WE SHOULD
INSIST GOB DO SO AS WELL AND VICE VERSA. A SIGNIFICANT
PORTION OF EMBASSY HARDSHIP CONSULAR CASES (NOT OVERLY
NUMBEROUS) INVOLVE RELATIVES OF ILLEGAL EMIGRANTS.

6. BULGARIAN COMMENT EXPECTED O / A 1 JUNE WILL BE
FORWARDED PROMPTLY AFTER TRANSLATION.
HOUSTON

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